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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Strong Deliverer, You are our strength and shield. Use Your powerful arms to help those in need and to prepare us to be instruments of Your purposes. Lord, listen to our longings and hear our cries as we intercede for this land we love. Bring to America the righteousness that exalts nations as You lead us away from those sins that bring reproach to any people. Use our lawmakers in this endeavor so that they will plant seeds that will produce a moral and ethical harvest. May their lives provide exemplary models of moral excellence so that people can see their ethical congruence. Teach them to hate pride and deceit as they strive to treat others as they want others to treat them.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 12, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans the final half.

Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of S. 744, which is the immigration bill. Today we will work through amendments on the bill. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

### IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last night the Senate advanced a bipartisan immigration reform bill that will be good for national security and very good for our economy. It will be good for American citizens as well as those who aspire to one day become citizens.

It is truly gratifying to see the momentum behind this commonsense reform proposal. Eighty-four Senators voted to adopt the motion to proceed to this legislation—a very strong vote. By comparison, the Senate failed to advance an immigration reform bill just 6 years ago when only 46 Senators voted to end debate on that measure.

It is a sign of progress that the legislation now before the Senate has not been stopped procedurally. I hope we are allowed to proceed on this legislation without being blocked by some ar-

cane Senate rule and that we can finish this legislation and send it to the House of Representatives.

I applaud the Gang of 8 for their bipartisan proposal. That is how the Senate used to work. They worked hard. They have worked through hundreds of different proposals. After the Gang of 8 finished their work, they took it before the Judiciary Committee. There were over 100 amendments—many more than 100 amendments. They adopted 46, and some 40 amendments were Republican amendments that were adopted. Chairman LEAHY conducted a fair markup, and no one disputes that. So I commend the Gang of 8 for allowing the bill to get to the Judiciary Committee, and I thank the Judiciary Committee for now giving us this proposal and bringing it to the floor, and now Democrats allowing us to proceed on this legislation, as well as Republicans.

Our goal now is to pass the strongest legislation possible, with as many votes as possible, while staying true to our principles, then await what the House is going to do. The Speaker has said he wants a bill that will allow the Democrats to vote. That is good news because in the House, for the last two Congresses, there have been very few opportunities for the Democrats to vote on substantive legislation.

The Speaker has said he will only allow legislation to pass over there that has a majority of the majority. That means only Republicans. If they don't have enough Republican votes, they are not going to bring up a bill for a vote. So I am very pleased the Speaker would say that. It is important we understand the procedure we have used for 230-plus years in this body: We pass something here, they pass something in the House, we go to conference and work out our differences.

So I understand we have a long road before us and more work will be necessary to get this bill across the finish line. I truly understand that. I know some of my Republican colleagues will

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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